

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE SOUTH COBB HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

(Mr. SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak to the Nation and to honor the South Cobb High School marching band—the Blue Eagle Band—for being selected to march for Barack Obama, the first African American to be elected President, in this extraordinary and historic inaugural parade.

This is an extraordinary story, Madam Speaker, but it is not just a Georgia story; it is an American story. For, when these young people were recognized and were selected for marching in this parade, they didn't have the money to come and no means, but people all across this country, from as far away as Arizona and California—over 16,000 donations and over 85 corporations—provided a way for these young people to come, young people who happen to come from the lower end of the economic stream. So you see, Madam Speaker, I am so proud to represent this extraordinary school from Austell, Georgia, from Cobb County, my district.

Next Tuesday, when we're watching this parade and when we see this Georgia high school band go by, it will not just be a Georgia story; it will be an American story. It will not be just a story of small achievement; it will be a story of America. People will say, "There goes America's band," because they got here and made it, because they practiced the values that made this country great with the spirit of the American people behind them.

THE TWIN TRIBES OF TERROR: HAMAS & HEZBOLLAH

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the U.N. Human Rights Council, a bastion of hypocritical countries, such as Saudi Arabia, that publicly whip women who have been raped, claiming rape is the woman's fault, has now self-righteously condemned Israel for defending itself from the terror group Hamas.

The U.N. Council condemns Israel and ignores that Hamas has been murdering Israelis for years by firing rockets into civilian areas. Israel has been hit by more than 8,000 missiles, mortars and rockets since 2000 by the group Hamas.

The resolution also failed to condemn Hamas for using Palestinian people as

human shields for its war operations against Israel.

Since the Council was established, most of its unfounded resolutions have been related to Israel. However, it disregards major human rights violators, such as the twin tribes of terror—Hamas and Hezbollah. This shows the incompetence of this anti-Israeli council.

By the way, Madam Speaker, Hamas has just reinstituted crucifixion in Palestine. Most humans would agree this is somewhat antisocial conduct. The Human Rights Council is neither concerned about humans nor rights.

And that's just the way it is.

GAINING CONTROL OF AMERICA'S MONETARY SYSTEM

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Instead of using bailout money to help people save their homes, the banks have thwarted \$350 billion in TARP funds, have used the money to buy other banks and have created a credit freeze. The banks have been permitted to pyramid debt out of sight. If we bail them out, the government and the corporate state become one and the same.

The wealth of the Nation is being accelerated upwards. We're moving from industrial capitalism to feudal capitalism where the rich get richer while 10 million Americans are out of work, while 10 million Americans face the loss of their homes and while American manufacturing jobs are endangered.

We have to take control of our money system. Put the Federal Reserve under Treasury and the fractional reserve system. We don't have to borrow money from banks, putting ourselves deeper in debt. We can create the money, spend it into circulation for jobs, health care, education, and infrastructure.

Throughout history, those nations have prospered which have had control of their monetary system. I am going to be introducing legislation to help effect exactly that.

SCHIP

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, today, the House is again going to consider the Democrat SCHIP Expansion Act.

This polarizing expansion of the welfare state was stopped by the veto pen last year, and that's where it ought to stay. Once again, the bill fails to ensure that all low-income children will be covered; but, instead, it is going to increase the number of adults on SCHIP. Once again, the bill will grant health care benefits to illegal aliens. The bill will force the taxpayer to pay

the health care premiums for children who already have quality, private health insurance. Even though President-elect Obama promised we wouldn't tax anyone making less than \$250,000 a year, this bill will impose the most regressive tax on the poor in history with the tobacco tax increase.

It is shameful that the Democrats are playing politics with America's needy children. I urge all of my colleagues to vote against this bill.

SCHIP

(Ms. GIFFORDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today because signing a robust SCHIP authorization bill into law will truly make this a happy new year for more than 170,000 kids in my home State of Arizona.

The coverage that they receive through Arizona's SCHIP program, known as KidsCare, will change their lives, will change their futures and will change the future of the country.

At the end of 2008, more than one out of every seven or over 16 percent of kids in Arizona were uninsured. That makes Arizona the fourth nationally for the percentage of children in each State that goes without health insurance.

I am deeply concerned about the worsening economic crisis, and what the growing unemployment means for health insurance in our future.

As we work to stabilize our economy, Democrats and Republicans have to stay united for our children. We are their representatives. We are their voices. We have to speak out for the kids of our Nation. In this economic climate, we must not fail to recognize that health care continues to be incredibly expensive, the most costly economic challenge confronting our families and businesses.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the SCHIP reauthorization.

OBJECTIVE MEDIA REPORTING

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, after an election, it's useful to take a brief look back before moving forward. According to the Nonpartisan Project for Excellence in Journalism, during the Presidential campaign, media coverage of Senator McCain was three times more negative than the coverage of Senator Obama. President-elect Obama won by about 7 percent. That means, if the media's one-sided coverage changed the minds of just 4 voters out of 100, the media, because of their bias, determined the outcome of the election.

Now that the election is over, will President-elect Obama get a free ride from his media allies?

One cable news host already is on record as saying it's his job as a journalist to ensure that this presidency is successful. The media can provide a valuable service, but we need to hold them accountable and need to insist on objective reporting.

SCHIP

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, today is a great day.

This morning, I woke up with great optimism, knowing that, today, the House will once again take up the Children's Health Insurance Program that will cover 11 million children.

Providing health insurance to children whose families simply cannot afford it has been a top priority for the people I represent in Missouri. With rising unemployment, covering children is even more important than ever, and the need grows each day. No longer will children be forced to visit an emergency room to receive basic medical care. This is commonsense legislation at its best. Now children will be better prepared for learning and for success in today's world economy.

The broad coalition of supporters behind this bill will soon have a friend in the White House. President-elect Barack Obama is committed to making health care readily available to every American, starting with America's children.

This bill will not be voted on today without the leadership of Chairman WAXMAN, Chairman Emeritus DINGELL and Congressman PALLONE. I thank them for their continued leadership. America's children are on the threshold of a healthier future.

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WEYERHAEUSER OF ELKIN MARKS ONE MILLION ACCIDENT-FREE HOURS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, bad economic news dominates the headlines every day. But back in the Fifth District of North Carolina, there are still success stories.

Last month, the Weyerhaeuser manufacturing facility in Elkin, North Carolina, was recognized for more than 1 million work hours with no accidents resulting in lost time. This is an impressive feat resulting in Weyerhaeuser executives giving the Elkin plant the Senior Management Gold Award—an honor bestowed only 20 times in the company's 108-year history.

I am pleased to recognize the hardworking Elkin employees at Weyerhaeuser for their impressive accident-free safety record. This accom-

plishment is more than a milestone. It is a reflection of a commitment to putting employees and their safety first.

That's why, in a time of constant bad news, it's my pleasure to highlight a story of success. Congratulations to everyone at Weyerhaeuser of Elkin, North Carolina, and I hope to be back here soon marking your celebration of 200 million accident-free hours.

SCHIP IS MORE IMPORTANT NOW THAN EVER

(Mr. WILSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, a program also known as SCHIP.

With both Ohio and our Nation's unemployment level above 7 percent—with job losses expected to continue to rise—it's more important than ever that American families have access to affordable health care. Reauthorizing SCHIP will serve as the first step toward providing hardworking Americans with the help they need to take care of their families during these difficult times.

Children in rural areas, like my district, Ohio's Sixth District, depends on Medicaid or SCHIP for health insurance. Reauthorizing this vital program will ensure that more than 230,000 children in my home State of Ohio can continue to receive quality health care coverage.

At a time when our Nation is facing unprecedented job losses and increased economic strain, it's critical that Congress work together to pass this legislation.

EXPAND SCHIP SENSIBLY

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, the State Children's Health Insurance Program is important to the people of Montana. In fact, in November, we voted to expand eligibility within our State. SCHIP was created by a Republican Congress and a Democrat President in 1997. It was one of those rare government programs that really works like its supposed to, and I am proud to support it.

Unfortunately, as is often the case, when a Federal Government program works, the temptation is to add to it until pretty soon, the original program, the one that worked so well, is overwhelmed by well-intentioned changes. Eventually the good parts of the program are smothered.

So let's expand SCHIP sensibly. Let's do it in a responsible way that does not undermine an effective program. Let's keep the Children's Health Insurance Program about children.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM IS NEEDED

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of the 14 million undocumented immigrants who otherwise would not have a voice.

Our country is in desperate need of comprehensive immigration reform to ensure the security of America and to bring vulnerable families out of the shadows. We all believe in strong enforcement of our borders and the rule of the law, but we are a Nation rooted in family, faith, in core values.

What should be done about the 12 to 14 million undocumented immigrants in this country? Immigrants are part of American fabric. In fact, the work ethic of immigrants is what built this Nation and still continues to do so.

Immigrant families are facing more than just a failing economy; they live in constant fear of being torn apart. We must work together towards comprehensive immigration reform that respects families and includes family unification.

I urge my colleagues to help these working families by passing comprehensive immigration reform. Let's make America great; let's not divide it.

KEEP THE F-22 PRODUCTION LINE OPEN

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, the future of the F-22 will be decided in the coming weeks by the Obama administration. Congress has spoken. The National Defense Authorization Act of fiscal year 2009 passed by Congress and signed by the President contained the funds necessary to continue with F-22 production. However, only a small portion of those funds have been obligated, and thus far, a go/no-go decision on the rest of the funds must be made immediately or the production line will begin shutting down.

For the sake of our Nation's air superiority, we must not let this happen. The Air Force is still nearly 200 F-22s short of its stated requirement, a fact that we must not overlook as Russia and China develop Raptor-like technology. Moreover, over 100,000 jobs in our Nation are directly or indirectly tied to this program.

For these reasons, nearly 100 of our colleagues have joined Representatives Kay Granger, Norman Dicks, David Scott, and myself in a bipartisan letter to President-elect Obama encouraging continued F-22 production. I encourage all Members to show their support for the continued United States air dominance and keeping the F-22 production line open.